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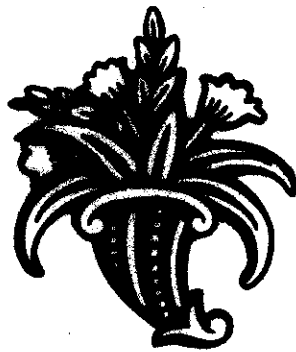
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Welcome & Farewell!

We bid farewell to W. James Downs, Jr., PT who served two four-year terms on the Board and was not eligible for reappointment. Jim will be truly missed for his

thoughtful contributions to board discussions, and his vast knowledge of the practice of physical therapy.

A warm welcome to Margery Rodgers, PT who replaces Jim. Marge will be eligible for reappointment following her initial four-year term. Since her arrival, she has been a valuable Board member, taking on assigned tasks and adding much insight into Board discussions.

Changes to Practice Act!

The following changes became effective September 2, 2002

[] denotes deletions; *italics* denotes new language

COMAR 10.38.03 Standards of Practice .02 Standards of Practice

A. Physical Therapists.

[(1) The primary physical therapist shall:

(a) Be ultimately responsible for patient care;

(i) Until a transfer of care to another physical therapist is documented; or

(ii) Once a patient has been transferred with documentation to the physical therapist's care;]

(1) *Primary Physical Therapist.*

(a) *The primary physical therapist shall be ultimately responsible for patient care until a transfer of care to another physical therapist is documented.*

(b) *Upon documentation of transfer of care under §1A(1)(a) of this regulation, the physical therapist to whom care is transferred shall be the primary physical therapist responsible for the patient's care.*

(2) *The physical therapist shall:*

[(b)](a) - [(m)](l) (text unchanged)

[(2)](3) - [(3)](4) (text unchanged)

These new regulations became effective November 11, 2002 -

COMAR 10.38.11 Compelling Purpose Disclosure .01 Scope.

This chapter does not apply to the disclosure of information in the Board's files to a health occupations regulatory board of this State or another state that licenses or disciplines persons practicing a health occupation.

.02 Disclosure for Compelling Public Purpose.

A custodian of the Board may find that a compelling public purpose warrants disclosure of information in a certification, licensing, or investigative file, regardless of whether there has been a request for information, and may disclose information concerning

competent evidence of:

A. Possible criminal activity, if disclosure is to a federal state, or local law enforcement or prosecutorial official or authority;

B. A possible violation of law, if disclosure is to a federal, state, or local authority that has jurisdiction over the individual whose conduct may be a violation and the information disclosed is limited to information relevant to the possible violation by that individual; or

C. Conduct by an individual which the Board reasonably believes may pose a risk to the public health, safety, or welfare, if disclosure is to a law enforcement authority, administrative official, agency that regulates the individual, or to a hospital or other health care facility where the individual has privileges.

.03 Other Disclosures.

This chapter does not prohibit or limit the ability of the Board to disclose general licensing information under State Government Article, §10-617(h), Annotated Code of Maryland, or any information that the Board may otherwise disclose by law.

Lest we forget -

⇒ Board meetings are opened to the public. The meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month beginning at 1 p.m. Feel free to stop by!!!!!!!!!!!!

⇒ The law course is offered twice a year - June and November. Reserve your spot for the June course.

⇒ Moving? Use the change of address form in this newsletter.

⇒ Applying for licensure in another state? The cost to verify licensure is \$25.

⇒ You may submit articles for inclusion in this newsletter.



Documentation Forms and Flow Charts

The Board has received inquiries regarding the design and content of documentation forms and flow charts. It is not the Board's purpose or intent to approve documentation tools used by physical therapists or physical therapists assistants. The Practice Act acknowledges the use of forms and flow charts as instruments in recording pertinent information relevant to the provision of physical therapy services and patient status.

The requirements for documentation are clearly stated in COMAR 10.38.03.02-1. Forms and flow charts, alone or in combination, can be useful tools in meeting the minimum requirements.

Ongoing Communication - PTs & PTAs

On March 18, 2002, changes to the Practice Act took effect. One of those changes is that the PTA no longer requires supervisory visits. In the new language under COMAR 10.38.03.02 Standards of Practice, both the PT and PTA must document ongoing communication regarding changes in a patient's status, treatment authorized by the physical therapist, or both. This means when the PT and PTA converse regarding a patient's status, or a change to the treatment plan occurs, that communication must be documented in the patient's medical record.

Executive Director's Corner

2002 was a busy year for the Board and its staff. A series of regulation changes and new regulations were promulgated, and were included in the Summer 2002 newsletter. This newsletter contains changes to COMAR 10.38.02 Standards of Practice and new COMAR 10.38.11 Compelling Purpose Regulations. The promulgation of regulations is a long and thoughtful process and represents many hours of work by the Board's Legislative Committee, the full Board, Board counsel and Board staff. It is *your* obligation, as a Maryland licensee, to know and understand the Practice Act. Twice a year, there is a law and ethics continuing education course, approved by the Board and offered by Dennis Klima, PT. 0.6 CEUs are awarded to participants of this course. You may contact the Board office to be put on the list for notification of dates. Those who have taken the course feel that it is worthwhile to be updated on the Practice Act.

The Board's purpose is to protect the public. The Board has investigated many complaints this year. Disciplinary actions taken are posted on the website - dnhm.state.md.us/bphte.

Staff continues to process new applications and works hard during the inevitable renewal period. Be sure to change your address if you move. The Board has the ability to levy a fine of \$100 for failure to notify us of a change of address. A form is included in this newsletter for that purpose. Your professional license should be as important to you as is your driver's license. Keep the Board informed of your whereabouts.

The various physical therapy programs in the State have sent students to Board meetings so that our new graduates will understand the purpose and work of the Board. The Board welcomes the public at its open sessions.

As the next renewal period approaches, make certain that you have the required continuing education. For the 2003 renewal period, continuing education must have been earned between April 1, 2001 and March 31, 2003, and clinically related to the practice of physical therapy. 30 contact hours or 3.0 CEUs are required for PTS and 20 contact hours or 2.0 CEUs are required for PTAs. Be familiar with the revised continuing education regulations that were included in the Summer newsletter and also posted on the website. Read all information

that accompanies the renewal application, complete the application, submit the correct fee, and have your continuing education in proper order. **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST WEEK OF MAY TO SUBMIT YOUR RENEWAL APPLICATION.** We cannot guarantee that you will have your renewed license in hand by the end of May unless we receive the renewal application in April or early May. Board staff works extremely hard during this period to process licenses in a timely fashion. However, if there are mistakes on the application or the fee is incorrect, everything is sent back to you causing delays. **IF YOU FAIL TO RENEW YOUR LICENSE AND CONTINUE TO PRACTICE IN MARYLAND, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION.**

Our goal is service to the public and licensees. Let us hear from you on how we are doing!

- Disciplinary Actions -

The following individuals had disciplinary actions taken against them in 2002 for various reasons. Copies of the Final Orders can be viewed and printed from our website - dnhm.state.md.us/bphte.

Teresa Blem, PT - Order effective 2/9/02
Michelle Blount PT - Order effective 11/19/02
James R. Clarke, PT - Order effective 9/17/02
Robert Dowd, PT - Order effective 2/19/02
Carol Shelton, PT - Order effective 10/15/02
Karen Shelton, PT - Order effective 6/1/02
Jonas Tapangan, PT - Order effective 1/15/02
Brian Voith, PT - Order effective 8/20/02
